OTS for small and marginal farmers - Loans outstanding of the identified farmers whose accounts have been categorized, as NPAs as on 31.3.2001 would be covered under the scheme, Eligible farmers should apply to bank in writing requesting for such settlement. For accounts declared as NPAs as on 31.3.2001, the settlement amount will be the balance outstanding in the loan account as on 31.3.2001. As regards interest accrued in the account after 31.3.2001, banks will decide upon the amount of compromise to be offered in each individual case subject to the condition that the amount of compromise will not exceed the interest accrued in the account between 31st March, 2001 and date of settlement.

The Reserve Bank of India has also issued standing guidelines to banks for providing relief to the farmers in areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines envisage *inferalia*:

- Conversion/rescheduling of loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage of crops.
- Grant of fresh crop loans to affected farmers.
- Conversion of principal as well as interest due on the existing short term loans to medium term loans.
- Grant of consumption loans.
- Not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/ rescheduled etc.
- Not to charge penal interest in respect of current dues in default.

Tiger reserves in the country

*149. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiger reserves in the country;

(b) the funds spent on such reserves in the country in 2003-04;

(c) the efforts being made to upgrade such tiger reserves;

(d) whether any targets have been set for 2004-05; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are 28 Tiger Reserves in the country.

(b) The details of funding support provided to Tiger Reserves under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Project Tiger' and the externally aided India Eco-development Project during 2003-04 are given in statement-I and II (*See* below).

(c) Under 'Project Tiger and the India Eco-development Project' funding support, *interalia*, was provided to Tiger Reserves for activities like protection, habitat development, management and eco-development to upgrade their conservation status.

(d) and (e) The targeted budget expenditure for 2004-05 and details of Central Assistance released to tiger reserves in various States are given in statement-III and IV.

Statement-I

Central Assistance to States under 'Project Tiger' during 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Tiger Reserve	State	Central Assistance provided during 2003-04
1	2	3	4
1.	Bandhavgarh	M.P.	90.12
2.	Bandipur	Karnataka	160.39
3.	Bhadra	Karnataka	108.93
4.	Buxa	West Bengal	52.45
5.	Corbett	Uttaranchal	200.91
6.	Dampa	Mizoram	67.56
7.	Dudhwa	U.P.	173.585
8.	Indravati	Chhattishgarh	80.25
9.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	Tamil Nadu	35.00
10.	Kanha	M.P.	282.864
11.	Manas	Assam	50.00
12.	Melgnat	Maharashtra	60.00

1	2	3	4
13.	Nagarjunsagar	Andhra Pradesh	22.89
14.	Namdapha	Arunachal Pradesh	38.75
15.	Nameri	Assam	25.00
16.	Pakke	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00
17.	Palamau	Jharkhand	35.99
18.	Panna	M.P.	563.535
19.	Pench	M.P.	68.975
20.	Pench	Maharashtra	97.19
21.	Periyar	Kerala	120.68
22.	Ranthambore	Rajasthan	14.245
23.	Sariska	Rajasthan	144.085
24.	Satpura	M.P.	97.92
25.	Similipal	Orissa	151.91
26.	Sunderban	West Bengal	172.72
27.	Tadoba-Andhari	Maharashtra	71.26
28.	Valmiki	Bihar	50.00
	TOTAL :		3067.209

Statement-II

Central Assistance to States under 'India Eco-development Project' during 2003-04

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserves	2003-04 Release
1.	Buxa	186.29
2.	Palamau	195.84
3.	Pench	146.37
4.	Periyar	100.66
5.	Ranthambore	296.61
	TOTAL :	925.77

Statement-III

Central Assistance to States under 'Project Tiger' during 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Tiger Reserve	State	Total Central Assistance approved for 2004-05 as per annual Plan of Operation (Targeted Expenditure)	Central Assistance released so far during 2004-05
1.	Bandhavgarh	M.P.	110.35	55.00
2.	Bandipur	Karnataka	500.86	150.00
3.	Bhadra	Karnataka	111.49	75.00
4.	Buxa	West Bengal	50.75	30.00
5.	Corbett	Uttaranchal	214.99	120.00
6.	Dampa	Mizoram	86.21	60.00
7.	Dudhwa	U.P.	174.715	105.50
8.	Indravati	Chhattishgarh	0.00	-
9.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	Tamil Nadu	181.045	80.00
10.	Kanha	M.P.	201.655	90.00
11.	Manas	Assam	0.00	-
12.	Melghat	Maharashtra	81.683	60.00
13.	Nagarjunsagar	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	-
14.	Namdapha	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	-
15.	Nameri	Assam	0.00	-
16.	Pakke	Arunachal Pradesh	79.787	35.00
17.	Palamau	Jharkhand	73.6485	50.00
18.	Panna	M.P.	107.575	60.00
19.	Pench	M.P.	89.93	50.00
20.	Pench	Maharashtra	139.77	75.00
21.	Periyar	Karala	62.25	40.00
22.	Ranthambore	Rajasthan	0.00	50.00
23.	Sariska	Rajasthan	119.475	75.00
24.	Satpura	M.P.	210.04	75.00
25.	Similipal	Orissa	161.32	75.00
26.	Sunderban	West Bengal	209.73905	80.00
27.	Tadoba-Andhari	Maharashtra	142.92	75.00
28.	Valmiki	Bihar	0.00	-
	TOTAL :		2929.65755	1565.50

Statement-IV

Central Assistance to States under 'India Eco-development Project' during 2004-05

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Tiger Reserves	Targeted Expenditure & Release during 2004-05 up to 8/2004
1.	Buxa	10.17
2.	Palamau	Nil
3.	Pench	65.45
4.	Periyar	69.49
5.	Ranthambore	2.12
	TOTAL :	147.23

Poor Infrastructure for Environment Protection

*150. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to poor infrastructure, the environment protection mechanism in India suffers substantially which results in a setback in the environment development;

(b) the details regarding Government's efforts in the development of environment proteciton infrastructure; and

(c) the details of allocation of funds during the last five years for institutional strengthening including training and staffing of technical professionals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The country has the legislation and policy framework required for environmental protection. The essential institutional infrastructure for regulatory and administrative functions is provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, State Departments for environment and forests and the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. However, considering the vastness of the country, there is need for further strengthening of the available infrastructure.